## **CLAIMS**

## What is claimed is:

	1. A	method comprising:
1	d	efining a library of available criteria to be used in filtering a
2	population of items to identify items of interest, each criterion having a	
3	graphical representation;	
4	receiving a selection of at least one of the criterion to be applied to the	
5	population as a filter;	
6	ac	ccepting an indication of a tier of the filter to which the selected
7	criterion	is to be associated;
8	id	lentifying a list of items of interest satisfying a current set of criteria
9	defining	the filter; and
10	di	isplaying a graphical representation of the filter while the filter is
11	construc	ted.

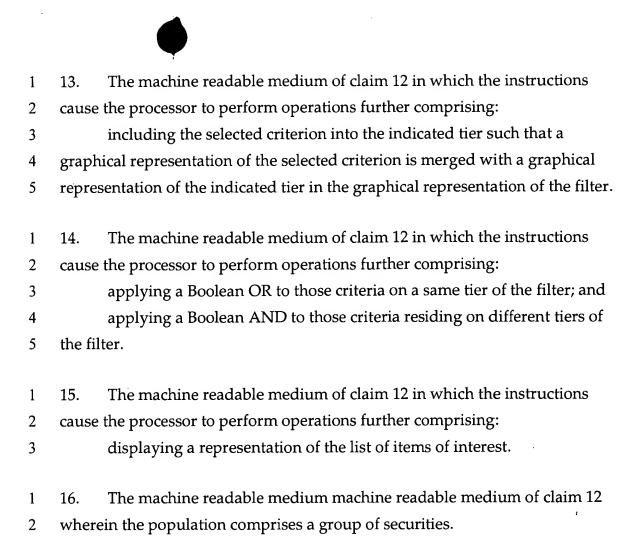
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
- 2 including the selected criterion into the indicated tier such that a graphical
- 3 representation of the selected criterion is merged with a graphical
- 4 representation of the indicated tier in the graphical representation of the filter.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
- 2 applying a Boolean OR to those criteria on a same tier of the filter; and
- applying a Boolean AND to those criteria residing on different tiers of
- 4 the filter.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
- 2 displaying a representation of the list of items of interest.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein identifying comprises:
- 2 computing a tally of the list of items of interest.
- 1 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising:

2	displaying the tally of the list of items of interest.	
1	7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:	
2	receiving an indication of one of the tiers of the filter;	
3	identifying, in response to receiving, a group of items satisfying the	
4	filter at the indicated tier;	
5	displaying the group of items.	
1	8. The method of claim 1 wherein the population comprises a group of	
2	securities.	
1	9. The method of claim 1 wherein the library of available criteria	
2	comprises criteria derived from a community of investors.	
1	10. The method of claim 1 wherein the library of available criteria	
2	comprises user customizable filter criteria.	
1	11. The method of claim 1 wherein the library of available criteria	
2	comprises predefined criteria.	
1	12. A machine readable medium having instructions stored thereon which	
2	when executed by a processor cause the processor to perform operations	
3	comprising:	
4	defining a library of criteria to be used in filtering a population of items	
5	to identify items of interest, each criterion having a graphical representation;	
6	receiving a selection of at least one of the criterion to be applied to the	
7	population as a filter;	
8	accepting an indication of a tier of the filter to which the selected	
9	criterion is to be associated;	
10	identifying a list of items of interest satisfying a current set of criteria	
11	defining the filter; and	

displaying a graphical representation of the filter while the filter is

constructed.

12 13



1 17. The machine readable medium of claim 12 in which the instructions
2 cause the processor to perform operations further comprising:
3 receiving an indication of one of the tiers of the filter;
4 identifying, in response to receiving, a group of items satisfying the
5 filter at the indicated tier;
6 displaying the group of items.